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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, FINANCE, AND WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILY RELATIONS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY ITS DELIVERY AND IMPLEMENTATION TO POOR FAMILIES AND SOLO PARENTS, WITH THE INTENTION OF STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND PERIPHERAL FACILITIES AND PROVIDING HEALTH CARDS OR VOUCHERS WHICH THE INDIGENT CITIZENS AND SOLO PARENTS CAN UTILIZE TO BUY MEDICINES AND HEALTH SUPPLIES**

1           WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution directs the State  
2 to "...protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness  
3 among them";

4           WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of our Fundamental Law further directs the State  
5 to "...adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall  
6 endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people  
7 at affordable cost" which shall prioritize the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly,  
8 disabled, women, and children;

9           WHEREAS, to fulfill the Constitutional mandates cited above, numerous landmark laws  
10 and administrative issuances have been enacted, which include but are not limited to the  
11 following:

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13           a.) Several provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "*Local*  
14           *Government Code of 1991*" which devolved the delivery of health services to local  
15           government units, delineated their roles and responsibilities, and established Local  
16           Health Boards throughout the country;

17           b.) Republic Act No. 7875, otherwise known as the "*National Health Insurance Act of*  
18           *1995*", as amended, which established the Philippine Health Insurance  
19           Corporation;

- 1 c.) Executive Order No. 102, which defines the mandate of the Department of Health;  
2 d.) Republic Act No. 10351, colloquially known as the "Sin Tax Law", which raised the  
3 excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco to reduce consumption of those products and  
4 to raise revenues for health insurance and better facilities;  
5 e.) PhilHealth Circular No. 011-2011, as revised through subsequent circulars, which  
6 provides that sponsored and indigent members and their dependents shall not pay  
7 for other fees or expenses above and beyond the packaged case rates;  
8 f.) Republic Act No. 10354, otherwise known as the "*The Responsible Parenthood*  
9 *and Reproductive Health Act of 2012*";  
10 g.) Provisions of Republic Act No. 10963, otherwise known as the "*Tax Reform for*  
11 *Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law*" which raises the excise taxes on sugar  
12 sweetened beverages to reduce consumption of such products, and to raise  
13 revenues to improve health services;

14  
15 WHEREAS, despite the plethora of health-related laws and administrative issuances  
16 listed above, much needs to be done to improve health services and outcomes in the country;

17 WHEREAS, consider the following data on health outcomes in the country from the  
18 Philippine Statistics Authority, National Nutrition Council, and the World Bank:

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20 • 15 to 19% of live births are still not delivered by a skilled provider;  
21 • 21 to 24% of live births are still not delivered in a health facility;  
22 • 14% of women who had a live birth still do not receive a postnatal check 2 days  
23 after;  
24 • 21.5% of children up to five years of age are underweight, while 33.4% are stunted  
25 and 7.1% are wasted;  
26 • 13 out of every 1,000 infants die in their first 28 days of life;  
27 • 22 out of every 1,000 children die before the first year of life;  
28 • 27 out of every 1,000 children die before they reach 5 years of age.

29  
30 WHEREAS, household out-of-pocket expenditures attributed for 54.2% or Php 342  
31 billion of all health expenditures in the country in 2016;

32 WHEREAS, most importantly, 6 out of 10 Filipinos die without receiving care from a  
33 qualified health professional;

34 WHEREAS, as an illustrative example, a newspaper of national coverage reported that  
35 a woman died from severe bleeding after delivering her seventh child;

1           WHEREAS, the report stated that the woman delivered here child at home with the  
2 assistance of a traditional midwife or "*hilot*", because she had been "...called out for having  
3 so many children" in an accredited health facility;

4           WHEREAS, it was reported that the mother was brought to a municipal hospital at 2  
5 a.m. in the morning because she was still bleeding five hours after the delivery of her child;

6           WHEREAS, it was discovered that the municipal hospital was closed, they sought to  
7 bring her to another municipal hospital 21 kilometers away, but she reportedly bled to death  
8 before receiving urgent medical care;

9           WHEREAS, it is clear that health services are still not widely available to many Filipinos,  
10 particularly the poor and the marginalized;

11           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the  
12 Philippines, to urge the Senate Committees on Health and Demography, Finance, and Women,  
13 Children and Family Relations, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the state of health  
14 services in the country, particularly its delivery and implementation to poor families and solo  
15 parents, with the intention of strengthening public hospitals and peripheral facilities and  
16 providing health cards or vouchers which the indigent citizens and solo parents can utilize to  
17 buy medicines and health supplies.

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19 *Adopted,*

  
**GRACE POE**